



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Old Rad Waste Burial Ground Focus Group

Meeting Record

April 14, 1999
Aiken Federal Building
Aiken, S.C.

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Environmental Remediation and Waste Management (ER&WM) Subcommittee Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (ORWBG) Focus Group met on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, 1:00 p.m., at the Aiken Federal Building, Aiken, S.C. The purpose of the meeting was to receive a status update on the four task teams, receive information on the Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards, receive Feasibility Study comments and review the path forward. Those in attendance were:

CAB Members

Karen Patterson, Admin. Lead
Wade Waters

Stakeholders

Lee Poe, Technical Lead
Jon Richards, EPA
Ken Feeley, EPA
Julie Corkran, EPA
Keith Collinsworth, DHEC
Mihir Mehta, DHEC
Todd Crawford
Jerry Devitt
Bill McDonell

DOE/Contractors

Brian Hennessey, DOE
Philip Prater, DOE
Joe Price, WSRC
Dave Amick, SAIC
Kevin Brewer, BSRI
Mike Griffith, WSRC
Ed McNamee, WSRC
John Bennett, BSRI
Don Toddings, BSRI
Tom Rehder, WSRC
Kim Cauthen, WSRC
Elmer Wilhite, WSRC
Jim Cook, WSRC
Jim Moore, WSRC

Karen Patterson, Administrative Lead, welcomed those in attendance and asked each of them to introduce themselves. Ms. Patterson reviewed the agenda.

For Task Team #6, Ms. Patterson and the Focus Group agreed on the following assumptions:

Institutional Control

- Assumed to last through 2138
- Institutional Control means monitoring, maintenance and conducting "emergency" activities.
- From now through 2038

- Nearest person at the mouth of Four Mile Branch
- All activities to remediate the burial ground should be completed before the contractor leaves the site
- Assumptions through the end of Institutional Control: 2138
 - Resident lives across Four Mile Branch from the burial ground
 - Resident does not get water from Four Mile Branch
 - Resident eats game that drinks from Four Mile Branch
- After Institutional Control
 - Resident lives across Four Mile Branch from the burial ground
 - Resident drinks water from Four Mile Branch
 - Resident eats fish from Four Mile Branch
 - Resident eats game that drinks from Four Mile Branch

Jerry Devitt, Task Team #1 Lead, stated his conclusion that while he considered the limits set by the regulators on concentration levels to be too high, he felt the Focus Group was tied to those limits. He felt the group could try and change the standards, but he didn't give too much room for success.

Ms. Patterson introduced Jon Richards, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Expert in Radiation, to discuss the drinking water standards. Mr. Richards drew the following chart on the board:

			Federal Guide 13		
			Mortality		Morbidity
Rad.	1976	1991	1E-4	5.6E-5	1E-4
H ³	20,000	60,900	56,100	31,400	38,600
C _s ¹³⁷	200	119	94	52	64
S _r ⁹⁰	8	42	39	22	35
Pu ²³⁹		65	19	10	14
	Now		After June		

Mr. Richards stated that EPA had attempted to modify the drinking water standards after June in the submission of Federal Guide 13. However, Congress would not agree with the new standard and has required the standards to be in keeping with the 1976 data, i.e., while EPA wanted to take the tritium standard to 31,400, Congress is requiring the standard to remain at 20,000. Gene Rollins asked if it was not true that EPA interpreted the statement that EPA should not relax the drinking water standard as a Congressional mandate to remain at the 1976 level. Mr. Richards stated that was true. Mr. Richards said the Federal Guide 13 was on the Web Site. The Web Site address is:

<http://www.epa.gov/radiation/rpdpubs.htm/federal/index.html>

Mr. Richards phone number and email address are as follows:

Phone: (404) 562-8648

Email: richards.jon@epa.gov

Todd Crawford stated there was no consistency between dose and risk in the 1976 data. Mr. Richards said EPA was trying to get consistency. He stated the strontium90 was the big problem.

Lee Poe, Technical Lead, reviewed the status of Task Team #3. Mr. Poe and the Focus Group agreed on the following assumptions:

Inventory

Assumptions Considered:

- Accept inventories identified in the Feasibility Study

A ssumption Not Considered:

- Question on continuing to include H-Area seepage basin

Limits

Assumptions Considered:

- Use of 1976 EPA Limits
- Use public water supply

A ssumption with No Consensus:

- Application to individuals

A ssumption Not Considered:

- Use new Federal Guides

Groundwater Flow

Assumptions Considered:

- Data sets from SRTC and Feasibility Study are consistent
- Flow time data should be used with path length to derive velocity
- Vados transport time
- Interim cover should be considered

A ssumptions Not Considered:

- Consider potential impact of H-Area seepage basins
- Source term
- Pump and Treat impact on groundwater flow
- Concluded that H-Area seepage basins impact small versus the burial ground
- Neglect H-Area seepage basins

Gene Rollins reviewed the status of Task Team #5. Mr. Rollins and the Focus Group agreed on the following assumptions.

Groundwater Transport

Assumptions to Consider:

- Average seep concentration
- Model to exposure point
- Consider recharge and Four Mile Branch dilution
- Consider lateral and vertical dispersion

- Consider retardation, Kd
- Consider contributions from all cells
- Consider temporal changes

Ms. Patterson asked Mr. Poe to review the path forward. Mr. Poe divided the path forward into two sections: Path forward on the Feasibility Study and the Task Teams. Based on the Feasibility Study schedule, the Focus Group would have to have a motion prepared for the May 25 CAB meeting in Savannah to influence the Feasibility Study. To meet that schedule, the following meeting schedule was proposed:

May 5- Members to provide comments on Feasibility Study

May 19 - Short Focus Group meeting to review the draft motion from the comments.

May 24 - Review the motion at the Environmental Remediation and Waste Management Subcommittee meeting.

May 25 - Present motion to the CAB

The May 5 and May 19 meeting are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. at the Aiken Federal Building. Mr. Hennessey and Ms. Corkran stated that DHEC, EPA, and DOE would be tied up on May 19 and could not attend that meeting. Mr. Poe asked Todd Crawford to help draft up the motions.

Mr. Poe stated that they were looking at other options to address the path forward for the Task Teams. He said he would let the Focus Group know the options as soon as possible.

Mike Griffith, WSRC, had copies of the SCDHEC draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste permit modification for DOE/SRS. There is a 45 day public comment period which ends on May 27. It was decided the Focus Group would submit a motion to the CAB at the May meeting. Copies of the draft were handed out.

Mr. Poe thanked all those in attendance and said the process of having the public stakeholders, regulators, DOE and WSRC get together for these discussions was very good and should be continued.

With no other comments, Ms. Patterson adjourned the meeting.

Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.